



Summer Social

Sundaes on Sunday

3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

August 23, 2020



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Items for September
Newsletter DUE August 14,
2020

What's better than a scoop of ice cream with syrup dribbling down from the top? Sharing this delectable confection with your AAUW friends as we celebrate Sundaes on Sunday.

Yes, it is Summer Social time. And although this will be a virtual gathering, there'll be lots of opportunities for sharing and learning about the exciting plans for the coming year.

All of the interest group leaders and board members have been hard at work putting together your ideas and suggestions to create a full schedule, including community outreach activities and ways to get involved in new public policy endeavors, STEM and women's issues. Every summer social attendee will receive a full compendium of these schedules and plans.

And, there'll be some contests and prizes, too. So start thinking about what type of sundae you will be sharing.

As is tradition, this is also a great way to introduce your friends and colleagues to AAUW and our branch. So, invite a prospective member to join us. AAUW Austin will then send that individual an Amy's ice cream gift certificate so that they can share in the fun as well as get to know us better.

An Evite will be arriving in your inbox from AAUW Austin Texas Membership. Be sure to RSVP via the Evite. Links to Zoom will be sent out to everyone who replies yes or maybe. If you are bringing a guest, please RSVP for them, too.

"See" you on the 23rd.

Your Membership Committee and Co-VPs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you! Thanks to all of you for being part of our Austin Branch and a special thanks to the volunteers whose many contributions keep us going. We are so fortunate to have this community and this group of dedicated individuals. It has been hard on our planners — wanting to meet in person but also remembering to be cautious on behalf on others.

Given this opportunity to be reflective, I want to remind you of the 100th anniversary on August 18 (for the ratification) and on August 26 (for certification) of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and of a promise to women of the right to vote. We know that there is more work to be done concerning equal opportunity — and not only for women. Please continue to do what you can in your daily life to advance this pursuit.

Next, I want to share an excerpt from a recent message sent from AAUW's National Board. The following text highlights one reason why AAUW has been criticized as being structurally racist:

*Yet there is more we must do. That's why I'm challenging you to reflect on what you can do as AAUW members — individually and collectively — to make a difference. **For example, you have the power to reimagine what it means to be an AAUW member, beginning with our educational degree requirement.** As we strive to be inclusive of **all** women's lives and experiences, the time has more than come to let go of this unnecessary prerequisite while continuing to embrace education as a central and lasting part of our mission.*

Please be thinking about this challenge. I expect that we will be voting about it as an association. Previously when we voted on giving up the requirement for a bachelor's degree, I did not consider that it could be viewed as racist. Like you, I have promised to be a life-long learner and I keep finding that there is a lot to learn.

Meanwhile, back to the work of our branch, if you would be glad to share your talents but no one has asked, please volunteer yourself. We would like to have members in training for every leadership position. If you see a place to help, please contact the VP or chair of that area of activity, Evelyn or me. We have two specific requests for assistance.

- The web/PR team would welcome another member — especially for content and feedback.
- It would be great to have someone willing to work with our financial team with the idea of one day serving as treasurer. I hear that a "... working knowledge of accounting principles and of QuickBooks or other accounting software would be preferred."

Wishing our branch and each of you a year of learning and of accomplishment.

Larayne Dallas
co-president
(ldallas@austin.utexas.edu)



DUES are DUE!!!

Membership Message

Your AAUW membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. So, if you have not paid your dues for 2020-2021, it is past time to do so.

To make sure that your name appears in this year's Yearbook, please renew your membership now. You can do this quickly and easily by using the personalized invoice and link sent to you on July 21st by memberinfo@aauw.org. Check your inbox.

If you cannot find that email, a copy of the Renewal Form is included as an attachment with this newsletter. Complete the form and mail it with your check to:

Roberta Coffin, 8505 Cima Oak Lane, A-30, Austin, TX 78759.

Use the Renewal form, as well, if you have any change of information that you would like to see included in the Yearbook.

Questions or concerns? Please feel free to reach out to Roberta Coffin (714) 679-8697 or send an email to aauw-atxmembership@aauw.net.

Your Membership Co-VP's
Roberta Coffin / Gayle Kanies

September
Branch
Meeting

2020-21 UT Fellows Present their Research

Fellows

Williamena Granger	Sierra Mendez
Caroline Johnson	Maro Youssef
Lucy Le Blanc	

Saturday September 12
10:15 a.m. – Virtual Meeting

(Watch for an evite with a Zoom link.)

TWO-MINUTE ACTIVISTS

Become a **Two-Minute Activist**! Join a group of Austin Branch AAUW members to advocate for issues important to us. With the click of an icon, you can educate elected officials on AAUW positions regarding economic security for women, education including Title IX, civil rights and others. See how easy it is to let your voice be heard – just [click here](#)



If you are interested in becoming a **Two-Minute Activist**, Contact **Gayle Kanies** (Gayle.Kanies@gmail.com).

Partner Highlight



The Austin Branch of AAUW has a long history of supporting access to high quality early childhood programs. In 1941, as its annual civic project, the Austin Branch committed to support a nursery school. Working with the Works Progress Administration (WPA), AAUW agreed to supervise the program and provide the supplies, equipment and food. Newspaper articles from the time announced the opening of what was then known as the Chalmers Nursery School, in the White Housing Center of Chalmers Court on East 3rd Street. The program opened on October 15 of that year. Branch budget records from the time included items such as painting toys for \$1.40 and laundry for \$3.26. The rent was a whopping \$7.90 per month. It is clear that AAUW members were staunch supporters and contributed a great deal to the early success of the nursery school.

From its beginnings as an “all white” nursery school, the school has evolved and expanded its reach to serve children that reflect our diverse community. AAUW has also evolved in its commitment to equitable access to high quality early childhood experiences for ALL children.

Through many name and location changes, our branch continues to support the work of Mainspring School. **Janie Maldonado** was the liaison with Mainspring for many years. Kudos to Janie for her long-term commitment and support of the school. **Linda Welsh** is the incoming liaison for Mainspring. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, contact Linda at lawelsh@gmail.com or 512-586-1575.

Summer of



Girlstart held their summer camps virtually. Everything that a camper needed to participate was delivered to her door, safely, well ahead of the beginning of camp. There were morning and afternoon sessions via video conference with the **Girlstart** staff as well as breakout sessions for activities. Each girl received a 56-page 'Courage to Create' engineering journal. In the journal, the campers responded to writing and reflection prompts, as well as recorded their data from activities and experiments. The last week of camp ran July 27 to 31.

Every girl who participated in camp received, for technology activities, an *Ozobot* robot to keep. Those girls who did not have a dedicated piece of technology received a device to keep.

So how can we help? **Girlstart** changed their Send a Girl to Camp campaign into Send Camp to a Girl. [Click here to donate](#) Help them reach their goal.

Girlstart will continue to offer virtual camps to the girls in the school districts it serves. They are also holding their popular starry nights virtually.

Latinita's spring conference was held virtually on July 18. More than 40 girls participated in the challenges of the day which included addressing Covid19's effect on underrepresented and underfunded communities of color across the US with an emphasis on technology disparities. Facilitated by volunteer mentors from tech companies and professionals across Austin, the girls used *Mural* (an online brainstorming platform) to share ideas, addressing access to technology, food insecurity, and distracted learning. The lunchtime speaker was Esmeralda Marrero, an IT Specialist/Project Manager with the U. S. Army Medical Department Center and School.

The last camp of the summer will be **Media Chica** for girls from ages 14 - 18. It will be held virtually from August 3 to 8. The camp is free.

The future of **Club Latinitas at Home** depends on what AISD will be doing concerning on-campus afterschool activities. If only at-home options are available, **Latinitas** will continue with the work they did in the spring.

Girlstart and **Latinitas** provide girls with opportunities to participate in high-quality and innovative STEM activities. If you are interested in working with either of these organizations to help foster the next generation of STEM professionals, please go to their website and complete their volunteer form.

STEM Update submitted by Nancy Andren,
STEM Liaison
texasnancy@austin.rr.com

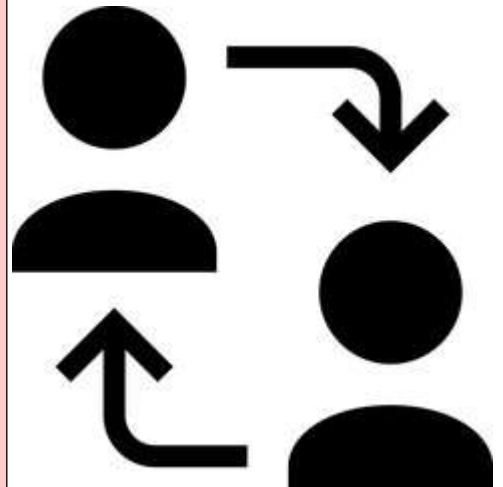
MEMBER CONNECT

(the former

Sunshine Committee) is seeking your help! In an effort to stay connected to each other, especially in this time of pandemic and social distancing, this team of AAUW members will touch base with those in the branch who have experienced illness or loss, or who just might need to hear a friendly voice on the phone. We will be contacting those referred to us through notes, cards, emails, and occasional phone calls.

If you know of someone who could benefit from a connection by our team, please contact: **Suellen Myers** at sfmyers7@hotmail.com or call her at 262-325-0112 or **Judy Bergman** at judy.bergman@yahoo.com or call her at 847-302-1316.

We are also seeking additional members to be a part of the Member Connect Team. Please let us know if you are interested in being a part of the team! And, of course, each of us is encouraged to connect with other members at any time. Please stay well and safe!



HELP GET OUT THE VOTE!

November and the presidential election is only a bit more than 3 months away! AAUW wants to help get out the vote by encouraging branch members to take Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) training.

While we are all worried about the pandemic and being in contact with a lot of people, we don't know what types of registration opportunities the coming months may bring.

Each and every voter makes a difference!

Get your FREE ONLINE TRAINING by using [this link](#)

Please let **Debbie Starr** (dbbstrr@gmail.com) know if you are already a VDR or you want to complete this training.

In Memoriam



Dr. Jenny Lind Porter Scott, was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on September 3rd 1927 to Drue J. and Josephine Trammell Porter. Dr. Porter was an author, educator, member of the Texas Women's Hall of Fame and a Texas Poet Laureate. She was a fifth generation Texan and earned both her B.A. & M.A. from Texas Christian University, a Ph.D. in Philosophy from The University of Texas at Austin, an honorary doctorate from the University of Free Asia (1970), and a Distinguished Diploma of Honor from Pepperdine University (1979). Dr. Porter was the Professor of English at West Texas State University from 1959-1961. Dr. Porter published numerous poems and books. This earned her prestigious awards from the Poetry Society of America (1940), and the Texas Institute of Letters (2000). Dr. Porter also earned the title of Poet Laureate of Texas (1964) and induction into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame (1985).

Her works include: *El Sol Colorado: Together with his friends, six men as individual and brilliant as he* (The saga of John O. Meusebach in early Texas), *Three Dramatic Monologues: Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rembrandt* by Jenny Lind Porter 1978.

Dr. Porter and her husband, Lawrence E. Scott founded the Texas Poets' Corner — The Jenny Lind Porter Collections in the Cornette Library at West Texas A& M; established a Creative Writing program at Huston-Tillotson University; named a Piper Professor (top ten outstanding college professions of Texas) by the Piper Foundation in 1976. She and her husband were also patrons of the O. Henry Museum, helping it to acquire and publish an unknown O. Henry children's story. Dr. Porter was the niece of O. Henry, a popular author of South and Central Texas short stories.

Dr. Porter is preceded in death by her beloved husband Lawrence Scott. She is survived by her two stepchildren Barbara Scott Goudy, and John Lawrence Scott and his wife Jan; plus seven grandchildren Johnnie Scott, Kevin Scott, Daniel Scott, Christopher Scott, Kayla Patterson and Bill Frederick and Yvonne Hersh. Other survivors are nieces Carol Coulson, Cynthia Wright and Candice Curry, and her sister-in-law Ernestine Porter.

Dr. Porter was known for her gentle yet fiercely independent resolve. She took great pride in her academic studies and literature achievements. She poured her heart and soul into her role as professor to over 10,000 students over her lifetime.

One of her favorite passions was telling stories about Texas, the siege of the Alamo, it's many historical heroes. She also loved animals of all kinds, especially her cat and poodle. Her faith remained strong throughout her lifetime, as she was well-versed in the teachings of the Bible. She is remembered for being an exceptional person, open-minded and full of vivacious optimism. She is buried at the Texas State Cemetery 909 Navasota Street, Austin, Texas.

Gifts and donations in her name can be made to: Poet's Corner at West Texas A& M University and/or The Austin Woman's Club.

INTEREST GROUPS

Art Tours

Art lovers tour studios, exhibitions and artists' homes to experience the wide variety of art being created in our community

When: Fourth Wednesday

Time: 10:00 a.m., unless noted with *

Contact: Marsha Endahl Kramer: MEKspirit66@gmail.com

(512) 906-6566

Bridge

Enjoy a good game of bridge with experienced and novice players.

Group A

When: Weekly on Thursday

Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Location: Senior Activity Center

29th and North Lamar

Contact: Elaine Penn: epenn9915@gmail.com

512-970-5051

Group B

When: Second Wednesday of the month

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: Members' homes - varies

Contact: Lynn Cooksey: lcooksey@austin.rr.com

(512) 477-2774

Group C

When: Fourth Wednesday of the month

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Senior Activity Center

29th and North Lamar

Contact: Sara Ezell: slezell@aol.com

Contemporary Literature

Contemporary Fiction meets in the evenings to discuss a balanced selection of recent fiction, general nonfiction, and memoir/biography chosen annually by popular vote.

When: 1st Monday of the month

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Varies

Contact: Mary Ellen Scribner: maryescribner@gmail.com

(512)-698-5539

Central Book Group

The Central Book Club meets monthly to discuss books that are of interest to the club members.

When: 2nd Monday of the month

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Varies

Contact: Mary Lou Bell: maryloubell@gmail.com

(512) 940-6480

Creative Stitchery

Creative Stitchery meets monthly in members' homes to work on various stitchery projects. Some of the stitchery projects may include well known skills like quilting, counted cross stitch, and weaving.

When: 3rd Wednesday

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Varies

Contact: Beverly Locklin: blocklin@austin.rr.com

(512) 633-2902

Culture and Cuisine

Culture and Cuisine meets monthly in members' homes to learn about different cultures and experience their gastronomical delights.

When: 3rd Thursday

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Members' Homes - Varies

Contact: Shirlene Justice: shirlenejustice@gmail.com

(512) 507-1003

First Friday Book Review

First Friday book review is made up of retired, semi-retired and women still employed, all educated and who love reading books and talking about the ones they liked best.

When: 1st Friday

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Hyde Park Church of Christ

43rd and Avenue B

Contact: Judy Reinhart: jareinhart@att.net

(512) 345-5936

Hiking Group

If you like to get out in nature, this group is for you. Meeting twice monthly, hikers will enjoy moderate trails located in beautiful Central Texas.

When: Generally 2nd and 3rd Thursdays but it may vary

Time: Varies

Contact: Linda Welsh: lawelsh@gmail.com

(512) 586-1575

Mystery Book Club

Mystery Book Club reads a different mystery themed book each month. The group learns about “new to me” authors and focuses on a different theme each month.

When: 4th Tuesday of the month

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Varies

Contact: Pam Wolfe: piwolfe@yahoo.com

(512) 925-7865

Pears

Members and their significant others meet monthly to participate in diverse activities while enjoying each other's company and Austin's vibrant culture.

When: 3rd Saturday, may vary

Time: Evenings, may vary

Location: Varies

Contact: Milli Stecker: milli1251@gmail.com

(512) 512-468-1088

Southwest Book Club

The Southwest Book Club reads an assortment of biographies/memoirs, fiction and non-fiction nominated and voted by members.

When: 2nd Monday, may vary

Time: 10:00 a.m., may vary

Location: Varies

Contact: Debbie Starr: dbbstrr@gmail.com

(512) 771-4497

Wine Tasters

Wine Tasters' enjoy themed tastings with a wine educator; to guide, engage and expand attendees knowledge.

When: Mid-month on Thursday or Saturday

Time: Varies

Location: Varies

Contact: Gail Boston: gail@austinxboston.com

(512) 626-5348

AAUW Austin Board Officers 2020-21

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